B. Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) Pharmaceutical cream preparation in the form of an oil-in-water (o/w) emulsion for topical application in the treatment and/or prevention of skin diseases, characterized in that said preparation ~~contains~~ comprises the following constituents in the lipophilic phase:

(i) as the active ingredient, an optionally substituted 1-phenyl-2-(1H)-pyridone compound or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

(ii) at least one surface-active solubilizer with an HLB value in the range 15-20,

(iii) at least one emulsifier with an HLB value in the range 8-15, and

(iv) optionally other excipients and additives ~~known per se and~~ selected from the group comprising triglycerides, penetration enhancers, preservatives and antioxidants.

2. (Currently amended) Preparation according to Claim 1, characterized in that it ~~contains~~ comprises the oily phase in a proportion ranging from 20 to 80% by weight and the aqueous phase in a proportion ranging from 80 to 20% by weight, based on the total weight of the preparation according to the invention.

3. (Currently amended) Preparation according to Claim 1, characterized in that it ~~contains~~ comprises the oily phase in a proportion ranging from 24.1 to 84.1% by weight and the aqueous phase in a proportion ranging from 75.9 to 15.9% by weight~~, and preferably contains the oily phase in a proportion ranging from 37.2 to 65% by weight and the aqueous phase in a proportion ranging from 35 to 62.8% by weight,~~ based on the total weight of the preparation ~~according to the invention~~.

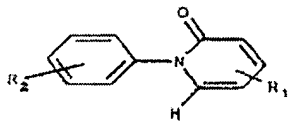
4. (Currently amended) Preparation according to ~~one of~~ Claims 1~~-3~~, characterized in that it ~~contains~~ comprises the active ingredient ~~[component (i)]~~ in an amount of 0.5-9% by weight and ~~preferably in an amount of 3-7% by weight,~~ based on the total weight of the preparation.

5. (Currently amended) Preparation according to ~~one of~~ Claims 1-4, characterized in

that it ~~contains~~ comprises the surface-active solubilizer ~~[component (ii)]~~ in a concentration of 5-65% by weight ~~and preferably in a concentration of 10-45% by weight,~~ based on the total weight of the preparation.

6. (Currently amended) Preparation according to ~~one of Claims 1-5~~ Claim 1, characterized in that it ~~contains~~ comprises the emulsifier ~~[component (iii)]~~ in a concentration of 3-30% by weight ~~and preferably in a concentration of 5-12.5% by weight,~~ based on the total weight of the preparation.

7. (Currently amended) Preparation according to ~~one of Claims 1-6~~ Claim 1, characterized in that it ~~contains~~ comprises as the active ingredient a substituted pyridone of general formula (I):



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in which R_1 is one of (C_1-C_4)alkyl, carboxyl (-COOH) or -COOalkyl(C_1-C_4) and R_2 ~~independently of one another are~~ is one of (C_1-C_4)alkyl, carboxyl (-COOH), [or] -COOalkyl(C_1-C_4) and ~~R_2 is also~~ hydrogen.

8. (Currently amended) Preparation according to Claim 7, characterized in that when present (C_1-C_4)alkyl and alkyl((C_1-C_4) of R_1 and R_2 are independently selected from the group consisting of ~~of one another are~~ methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, sec-butyl, and ~~or~~ t-butyl, ~~and, if R_1 and/or R_2 are a radical -COOalkyl(C_1-C_4), the (C_1-C_4)alkyl radical therein has one of the meanings given above for R_1 and/or R_2~~.

9. (Currently amended) Preparation according to Claim 7, characterized in that it contains as the active ingredient a compound of formula (I) in which R_1 is (C_1-C_4)alkyl and R_2 is hydrogen or (C_1-C_4)alkyl~~, and preferably in which R_1 is methyl and R_2 is hydrogen~~.

10. (Currently amended) Preparation according to ~~one of Claims 1-9~~ Claim 1, characterized in that the active ingredient ~~as~~ is a pharmaceutically acceptable salt as an alkali metal or alkaline earth metal salt of the carboxyl-substituted compound of formula (I), ~~preferably is the sodium or magnesium salt;~~ or a salt of the compound of formula I which

does not ~~eaontain~~ contain a carboxyl group with oxalic acid or succinic acid.

11. (Currently amended) Preparation according to ~~one of Claims 1-10~~ Claim 1, characterized in that it ~~contains~~ comprises one of the following compounds as the active ingredient:
5-methyl-1-p-tolyl-2-(1H)-pyridone
3-methyl-1-phenyl-2-(1H)-pyridone
3-ethyl-1-phenyl-2-(1H)-pyridone
4-isopropyl-1-phenyl-2-(1H)-pyridone
5-methyl-1-phenyl-2-(1H)-pyridone
3-methyl-1-carboxyphenyl-2-(1H)-pyridone
5-carboxy-1-phenyl-2-(1H)-pyridone
4-carboxymethyl-1-phenyl-2-(1H)-pyridone
5-t-butyl-1-(p-carboxyethylphenyl)-2-(1H)-pyridone.

12. (Currently amended) Preparation according to ~~one of Claims 1-11~~ Claim 1, characterized in that the surface-active solubilizer is selected from the group ~~comprising~~ consisting of diethylene glycol monoethyl ether, polyethylene/propylene glycol copolymers, cyclodextrins, glyceryl monostearates, sorbitan esters, polyoxyethylenesorbitan acid esters, polyvinyl alcohol, sodium laurylsulfate (anionic) and glyceryl monooleates.

13. (Currently amended) Preparation according to ~~one of Claims 1-12~~ Claim 1, characterized in that the emulsifier is selected from the group ~~comprising~~ consisting of anionic and non-ionic emulsifiers, anionic emulsifying waxes, cetyl alcohol, cetylstearyl alcohol, stearic acid, oleic acid, polyoxyethylene/polyoxypropylene block polymers, addition products of 2 to 60 mol of ethylene oxide and castor oil and/or hydrogenated castor oil, wool wax oil (lanolin), sorbitan esters, polyoxyethylenalkyl esters, polyoxyethylenesorbitan fatty acid esters and polyvinyl alcohol~~, and preferably from glycerol monooleate and stearic acid~~.

14. (Currently amended) Preparation according to ~~one of Claims 1-13~~ Claim 1, characterized in that the triglyceride is selected from the group ~~comprising~~ consisting of medium-chain and high-molecular triglycerides~~, and preferably medium-chain triglycerides in the form of glycerol esters of fatty acids having 6-12 carbon atoms, caprylic/capric acid triglyceride being particularly preferred~~.

15. (Currently amended) Preparation according to ~~one of Claims 1-14~~ Claim 1, characterized in that the penetration enhancer is selected from the group ~~comprising~~ consisting of isopropyl myristate, oleic acid, sodium laurylsulfate and 1,2-propanediol~~, the last of these being preferred~~.

16. (Currently amended) Preparation according to ~~one of Claims 1-15~~ Claim 1, characterized in that it also ~~contain~~ comprses at least one superfatting agents, solvents, consistency regulators and/or hydrotropic agents.

17. (Currently amended) Preparation according to ~~one of Claims 1-16~~ Claim 1, characterized in that it ~~contains~~ comprises the following components:

(a) 3-7% by weight of active ingredient
(b) 3-30% by weight of emulsifier
(c) 5-65% by weight of surface-active solubilizer
(d) 5-30% by weight of triglyceride
(e) 2-20% by weight of penetration enhancer
(f) 2-20% by weight of superfatting agent
(g) 3-30% by weight of consistency regulator
(h) 0.01-3% by weight of preservative
(i) 0.1-5% by weight of antioxidant
(k) 1-50% by weight of solvent
(l) purified water ~~ad 100% by weight (i.e. 20-80% by weight and especially 15.9-75.9% by weight of water)~~ balance to 100% by weight.

18. (Currently amended) Preparation according to ~~one of Claims 1-16~~ Claim 1, characterized in that it ~~contains~~ comprises the following components:

- 3-7% by weight of active ingredient
- 5-12.5% by weight of cetylstearyl alcohol
- 10-45% by weight of macrogol 15-hydroxystearate
- 7-20% by weight of medium-chain triglyceride
- 3-10% by weight of propanediol
- 3-10% by weight of decyl oleate
- 5-12.5% by weight of stearic acid
- 0.02-3% by weight of sodium methylparaben and sodium propylparaben
- 0.2-3% by weight of sodium metabisulfite
- 1-50% by weight of solvent

- purified water ~~ad~~ balance to 100% by weight.

19. (Currently amended) Process for the production of a preparation according to ~~one of Claims 1-18~~ Claim 1, characterized in that the lipophilic constituents are melted together and the melt is heated to 60-80°C in one apparatus, and the aqueous phase is heated to the same temperature in a separate apparatus, the aqueous phase is then incorporated into the oily phase and the mixture is emulsified until homogeneous and stirred until it forms a semisolid cream, the pH optionally being adjusted to 5-7.5.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (New) A method comprising treatment or prophylaxis of a skin disease selected from diseases of a fibrotic nature, fibrous lesions, multiple warts, contact dermatitis, and keloids or promoting the healing of burns or post-operative wound care comprising applying the preparation of Claim 1 to skin.